## Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC

SUBJECT: PROPOSED STUDY OF US-IRANIAN HIGHER EDUCATION RELATIONSHIPS

REF: STATE 050769

1. PARAGRAPH (A) UNDER EDUCATION OF US-IRAN JOINT COMMISSION'S AGREED MINUTES OF ITS SECOND SESSION (PAGE 12, REFTEL) STATES THAT "THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AGREED TO UNDERTAKE A SPECIAL STUDY OF WAYS TO FACILITATE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF RELATIONS BETWEEN IRANIAN AND UNITED STATES INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING. THIS STUDY WILL INCLUDE A CAREFUL ASSESSMENT OF AREAS OF POSSIBLE COOPERATION AND A REVIEW OF BOTH EXISTING AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ANTICIPATED INSTITUTIONAL RELATIONSHIPS."

2. PURSUANT TO THIS UNDERSTANDING CU/NEA SOLICITED FROM BHF OVERSEAS LIASON COMMITTEE OF THE AMERICAN COUNCIL ON

EDUCATION A PROPOSAL FOR COLLABORATIVE STUDY OF US-IRANIAN COOPERATION IN HIGHER EDUCATION. STUDY WOULD DETERMINE EXISTING AND DESIRED LINKAGES THROUGH A SURVEY IN US AND IRAN. OLC ON BASIS OF STUDY WOULD MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING FACILITATING AND EXPANDING INSTITUTIONAL RELATIONSHIPS AND ADDRESS POSSIBILITY OF A COORDINATING AGENCY TO ASSIST IN DEVELOPMENT OF THESE RELATIONSHIPS.

3. OLC IS MADE UP OF SCHOLARS AND ADMINISTRATORS HAVING SPECIALIZED KNOWLEDGE OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN US AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. IT MAINTAINS ONGOING COMMUNICATION WITH VARIOUS UNIVERSITY ASSOCIATIONS THROUGHOUT DEVELOPING WORLD.

- 4. SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES OF PROPOSED STUDY SUMMARIZED AS FOLLOWS:
- A. SURVEY EXISTING AND PROPOSED US HIGHER EDUCATIONAL LINKAGES WITH IRAN.
- B. SURVEY HIGHER EDUCATION IN IRAN.
- C. EXPLORE WAYS HIGHER EDUCATION CAN MOST EFFECTIVELY CONTRIBUTE TO IRANIAN SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC BETTERMENT.
- D. ASSESS CURRENT AND ANTICIPATED BOTTLENECKS IN INTERINSTITUTIONAL LINKAGES.
- E. RECOMMEND WAYS US HIGHER EDUCATION CAN MORE EFFECTIVELY ASSIST IRAN IN ACHIEVING DESIRED LEVEL AND PATTERN OF UNDERGRADUATE AND GRADUATE EDUCATION.
- F. IDENTIFY MEASURES FOR EXPANDING RANGE OF LINKAGES WITH US HIGHER EDUCATION.
- G. REVIEW ALTERNATIVES FOR FACILITATING ORDERLY AND SYSTEMATIC LIASION BETWEEN US AND IRANIAN EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS.
- 5. OLC PROPOSAL CALLS FOR CONSULTATION WITH US ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS KNOWN TO BE ENGAGED IN COLLABORATIVE ACTIVITIES WITH IRAN. THIS WOULD BE FOLLOWED BY THE DISPATCH OF A STAFF COORDINATOR AND SURVEY TEAM TO IRAN FOR THREE WEEKS. TO BE EFFECTIVE AS WELL AS ASSURE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ADEQUATE GOI INTEREST, TEAM WOULD REQUIRE DIRECT PARTICIPATION OF AT LEAST TWO IRANIAN REPRESENTATIVES--HOPEFULLY, ONE FROM THE MINISTRY OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND ANOTHER FROM THE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM WHO ENJOYS HIGH DEGREE OF RESPECT AND CREDITABILITY IN BOTH GOVERNMENT AND ACADEMIA. WE HAVE IN MIND AS GOI PARTICIPANT PROFESSOR KOFIDI IN MINISTRY OF HIGHER EDUCATION. WE WOULD EXPECT THAT SUCH IRANIAN PARTICIPATION WOULD ALSO INVOLVE VISIT TO US FOR DRAFTING OF FINAL REPORT AND POSSIBLE FOLLOW-UP EFFORTS.

6. STUDY WOULD BE FUNDED ENTIRELY BY CU/NEA EXCEPT FOR

COSTS OF IRANIAN PARTICIPANTS. TENTATIVE DEADLINE FOR REPORT IS JANUARY 1976.

7. ACTION: POST IS REQUESTED TO CONTACT APPROPRIATE GOI OFFICIALS AND LEADING ACADEMIC FIGURES ON PROJECT DRAWING ON ABOVE DESCRIPTION AND ASSESS DEGREE OF THEIR APPROVAL AND SUPPORT. PROVIDED IRANIANS EXHIBIT THE NECESSARY INTEREST IN IMPLEMENTING STUDY THEY ACCEPTED IN PRINCIPLE AT JOINT COMMISSION MEETING IN MARCH, CU WISHES TO AWARD CONTRACT TO OLC IN NEXT FEW WEEKS. POST'S COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS ARE INVITED. INGERSOLL

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